Inclusion of synonyms of Kurumans in the SC/ST list

2703. SHRI RAMACHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have received representations for inclusion of synonyms of KURUMANSST communiy which is already recognised as ST community, in the last of STs;

(b) if so, the reasons for non including them in the lists of SC/STs when their mother community is already in the list of STs; and

(c) whether Government propose to take special steps to remove the injustice done to synonyms of KURUMANS community by including them in the list of STs?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI SITARAM KESRI): (a) Yes. Sir.

(b) and (c) Any amendment in the existing Scheduled tribes lists can be done by an Act of Parliament as laid down in Artcle 342(2) of the Constitution.

Washerman community as scheduled caste

2704. SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Washerman community has been declared as Scheduled Caste Community in only some and not in all the States;

(b) if so, what are the names of the States where washerman community has been classified as Scheduled Caste Community; and

(c) whether Government are taking steps to declare this community as Scheduled Caste in the remaining States also?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI SITA RAM KESRI): (a) and (b) "Washerman" as a community has not been specified in Scheduled Caste list in any of the States/UTs, As per the Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order, 1950 as amended upto-date Dhupi, Dhobi, Dhoba, Chhimbe and Vannan have been specified in Scheduled Caste lists in the States/UT of —Assam, Bihar, Himachal Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya, Orissa, Rajasthan, Tripura, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Mizoram, Arunachal Pradesh, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, and Delhi.

(c) Any amendment in the existing Scheduled Castes lists can be done by an Act of Parliament as laid down n Article 341(2) of the Constitution.

Rai Sikh community of Punjab

2705. SHRI SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that "Rai Sikhs" of Sheikhupura, Montegomery (now in Pakistan) and Ferozepur are listed as "Scheduled Tribe" by Punjab Government;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that they are not being given the benefits due to them as 'Scheduled Tribe' by the State and Central Governments;

(c) whether Goernmvent are aware that the Supreme Court of India vide its judgement in civil appeal number 169 of 1982, has given the decision in favour of "Rai Sikhs" Community;

(d) if so, whether Government propose to give all the benefits of 'Scheduled Tribe' to "Rai Sikh" community; and

(e) if so, whether any deadlines has been fixed by the Government?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI SITA RAM KESRI): (a) No. Sir. The provisions of Article 342 of the Constitution have not been invoked in relation to the State of Punjab.

(b) Does not arise.